

Early Childhood Must be a National Priority

Congressman Bernie Sanders



Dear Fellow Vermonter,

Now more than ever, we understand that the early years are critical in a child's mental, physical, and emotional development. Yet we still treat child care and early childhood education as afterthoughts. We seem to ignore the fact that in today's economy, most parents must work outside the home, often at more than one job. Despite that reality, there is no comprehensive system of child care, and parents and providers alike make huge sacrifices to try to meet our children's needs.

Funding for quality facilities and programs is woefully inadequate, and providers are desperately underpaid, to the point that these professionals who provide an essential service to society often must utilize public assistance programs to survive economically. It is a scandal that in the richest country in history we fail to ensure a high quality, universal and seamless system of education, starting in infancy. There are several important steps Congress should take to address this crisis, including significant increases in funding, but we need to muster the political will.

Changing our national priorities to put children ahead of tax breaks for the rich is a top priority of mine this session. Along with several specific initiatives, this year I formed the first-ever non-partisan **Congressional Child Care Caucus**. Through the Caucus, which already has 36 members, we will significantly raise awareness on this critical need, and with your help, begin to put the care and education of America's children first.

A handwritten signature of Bernie Sanders in blue ink.

**Please join Bernie
to explore and discuss
the state of early
childhood education,
alternative models,
and coming together to
create positive results
for children, providers,
and families.**

Directions to the South Royalton High School

From the NORTH:

Take I-89 Exit 3.
At the end of ramp, turn LEFT.
At the stop sign, turn RIGHT on Rt.14 South.
At the junction with Rt. 110, turn RIGHT
across green iron bridge.
At town green, turn LEFT on Windsor St.
The High School is 1/4 mile on left.

From the SOUTH:

Take I-89 Exit 2.
At the end of ramp, turn LEFT.
At the stop sign, turn RIGHT on Rt.14 North.
At the junction with Rt.110, turn LEFT across
green iron bridge.
At town green, turn LEFT on Windsor St.
The High School is 1/4 mile on left.

for more information, call (800) 339-9834

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

**Vermont Families
Deserve Affordable
Quality Child Care!**

Congressman Bernie Sanders' Congressional Symposium on Early Child Care and Education



**Saturday, May 19th
1:00 - 4:30pm**

**South Royalton
High School**

Congressman Bernie Sanders' Statewide Symposium on Early Child Care and Education

Saturday, May 19th 1-4:30pm

South Royalton High School

Program

1:00pm Welcome & Introduction

Congressman Bernie Sanders "What's New"

The Congressman will update us on the situation in Congress with regard to the urgent need for more available, affordable child care and education services, including the exciting establishment and growth of the first-ever non-partisan Congressional Child Care Caucus.

1:30pm Presentations

Kerry Moser

Co-Chair, Starting Right

The Starting Right Campaign in Rhode Island has secured enhanced state support for child care providers and families including subsidizing health care coverage for child care workers. Ms. Moser will also report on progress on quality improvements through training and accreditation support.

Dr. Shanny Peer

Director of Educational Programs, French-American Institute

The French system of early education holds lessons for us the United States. Ms. Peer, (a former French professor at the University of Vermont) will focus on policies that states can implement.

2:15pm Break

2:30pm Presentations

Francoise Tremblay

Research Associate, Quebec Ministry of Families and Children

In 1997, Quebec instituted a Province-wide \$5 per day universal child care program. In addition to discussing training requirements, regulation of centers and home-based providers, and financing of the system, Ms. Tremblay will explain the historical background that led to the development of universal child care.



Barbara Thompson

Acting Director, U.S. Military Children and Youth Office

The U.S. Military's child care program has become a model for the nation. Ms. Thompson will describe how the military transformed it's faltering child care system and how the civilian world can do the same.

Denise Dowell

Director, National Child Care Workers Union

Quest, a Pennsylvania task force on child care compensation and health care, has successfully lobbied for their legislative agenda and may have some helpful tips for Vermont advocates. Ms. Dowell will also discuss the role unions can play in improving child care and workforce conditions.

3:15pm Questions & Answers

4:15pm Congressman Sanders "Next Steps"